

Deborah Corey

The Kochs

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If you haven't read this article on David Koch and his views that was inspired by The Politico article on David Koch and his views which is apparently an eye opener for Democrats who don't check their facts -(gasps for breath)-**you should read it**. Whew.

The Mediaite article contains a lot of notable facts including this analytical run down:

Koch is a board-member for the **Reason Foundation** (which publishes *Reason* magazine) and the **Cato Institute**. Both groups have long been vocal supporters of **gayrights**, drug legalization, civil liberties, non-interventionist foreign policy; and vocal opponents of things like police abuse, executive overreach, and excessive government spending on all things including the GOP's sacred-cow military. Heck, the demonized brothers reportedly **once gave \$10 million each** to the American Civil Liberties Union to fight the PATRIOT Act.

In fact, in some ways it is arguable that these Koch-funded organizations have done more for many so-called "progressive" causes than progressives themselves. Koch funding has helped produce countless writers who have blown the lid off **rampantpoliceabuse**, exposed **horrific injusticesfrom theWar on Drugs**, and repeatedly criticized the foreign policy **blunders of both Republican and Democratic administrations**. (Disclosure: I had a paid internship with the Institute for Humane Studies, a non-profit that has received some funding from Koch charitable organizations. Not that I've accomplished anything on the level of Reason or Cato.)

Oh, and hey, remember **Ted Olson**, one of the main attorneys behind the lawsuit to overturn California's Proposition 8 gay marriage ban? He is also a counsel for Koch Industries and a board member at the Cato Institute.

It's fine if the left wants to criticize the Kochs for what they believe to be a "poisoning" of democracy with an influx of so much money — we can have that debate, and it would be a fascinating one. But if you're going to take that position, then you should at least be consistent and also criticize **George Soros**, the billionaire bankroller of liberal causes and, consequently, the chief bogeyman of conservatives.

This information is probably causing a meltdown for some people who have rather enjoyed attacking The Koch Brothers and may make some people not like them at all who previously liked them. Whew.

Seriously, I'm thinking of renaming this blog The Devil's Advocate because I'm dedicated to all points delicate, complex and deep. What can I say, I love paradoxes.